



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 13, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Agreement For Surface Water And Groundwater Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for water resources investigations related to surface water and groundwater measurements for the period of November 1, 2007, through October 31, 2008, with a City cost share of \$101,300.

DISCUSSION:

The City and USGS have worked cooperatively on water resources monitoring and investigations for over 25 years. As in the past, the proposed program has two elements:

- **Surface Water Gauging Stations:** USGS will continue to operate, maintain, and publish stream flow records for four stations on the Santa Ynez River, and one on Mission Creek. This information is used to implement the Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement and for tracking recharge releases into Mission Creek.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** City staff will take monthly water level measurements at 73 monitoring locations. USGS will continue to collect and maintain groundwater quality data. This information is used in the City's Multiple Objective Optimization Model of City water supply sources and planning related to the City's groundwater sources.

The data that is collected and maintained is an important part of managing the City's water supply. The Water Commission is scheduled to review this item on November 12, 2007.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The overall program cost is \$159,250, to be shared by the City (\$101,300) and USGS (\$57,950). Funds for this program are included in the 2008 Water Fund Operating Budget. The City also contributes 200 labor hours per year for measuring groundwater levels. The information is used to some extent by USGS, but is of primary interest to the City due to its direct connection with our water supply.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This long-term data collection effort is a part of managing our local water supply in a sustainable manner, particularly with regard to the safe yield of groundwater basins.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager/BF/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office